



**United States Department of Energy**  
**Isotope Program SC-26.2**  
**Invitation for Bids to Purchase Helium-3 Gas**

The U.S. Department of Energy (Department) has been participating in an Interagency Group to manage the federal supply of helium-3 (He-3). The Interagency Group assesses and prioritizes requests for He-3 necessary for the federal mission, while simultaneously taking steps to decrease demand and increase supply. The success of the Interagency Group has mitigated short- to mid-term impacts of a He-3 shortage. In recognition of the important activities requiring He-3 that are outside of the federal mission, the Department has identified 4,000 liters of purified He-3 gas for competitive sale. Stakeholders whose Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 He-3 needs will be met by the federal allocation process, or who submitted requests for He-3 gas through a U.S. federal agency in anticipation of participating in the FY 2013 federal allocation process, should not participate in this auction. The Department wishes to sell the He-3 to multiple Bidders who submit the highest bids in a competitive bid process. Initially, each Bidder will be limited to 400 liters, but may bid on unlimited lots of 100 liters each. Should there be any He-3 remaining after the 400 liter limit has been reached by all Bidders, then remaining gas will go to the highest Bidder.

He-3 is stored and will be delivered in cylinders with a Compressed Gas Association 580 brass valve. Unless otherwise specified by the Bidder, each cylinder will contain a nominal 100 liters of purified He-3, standard temperature and pressure. Cylinders are designed to U.S. Department of Transportation specification, 3AA 2015, and are refillable cylinders.

DOE's Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the purchase of He-3 gas is scheduled to be posted on <http://www.isotopes.gov/he-3auction> on **October 9, 2012** and will be available for downloading from this website. The Department will accept questions regarding the IFB. All questions must be submitted to [He3auction@science.doe.gov](mailto:He3auction@science.doe.gov) no later than **5 PM (Eastern Standard Time) October 23, 2012**. DOE will respond to all questions by **5 PM (Eastern Standard Time) October 26, 2012**. DOE will post all questions received and their corresponding answers on the website <http://www.isotopes.gov/he-3auction>. The identity of the stakeholder posing the question will be kept anonymous and will not be posted on the website.

All valid bids to purchase He-3 gas must be received by the U.S. Department of Energy no later than **5 PM**, local prevailing time (Washington, DC) on **November 6, 2012**. The Department requires bids from qualified Bidders be submitted in **electronic format** to [He3auction@science.doe.gov](mailto:He3auction@science.doe.gov). A confirmation of receipt will be sent electronically within 24 hours of the next business working day. **Bids will not be accepted via U.S. Postal Service mail.**